



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I am writing to you regarding the RCP Role as an ECMO Specialist and/or Primer. I would like to know where the RCB stand on this issue regarding our scope of practice. I understand that under Section 3701 "existence of overlapping functions" and 3702 that RCP is able to administer pharmacological agents as long as it is under a protocol approved by the hospital and its governing bodies. Please let me know if there are other resources I can utilized as reference. Thank you.

Response: The role of the RCP as it relates to ECHO continues to be somewhat un-documented despite the fact that the function it provides is predominately cardiopulmonary in nature. I am not aware of additional resources I could point you toward that would answer your questions regarding ECHO. I would recommend keeping in close contact with the AARC as they research and document this treatment modality.

From a patient safety perspective, I would encourage you to keep your patients as your primary focus when your facility ponders its direction or decisions with regards to ECHO. Professionally, I believe the RCP is the best practitioner to deliver this modality in the acute care setting based upon both their education and training.

Reference #: 2005-C-17